



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP JOINS BIPARTISAN COALITION TO FIGHT FOR \$300 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR NY

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today joined a bipartisan coalition that is fighting to preserve the current funding formula for highways. If the formula were changed, New York could lose \$300 million, more than any other state.

Under the current formula, each state is assured of receiving 90.5% of its gas tax investment back in the form of projects. Some states want to change that formula so that states get back more of their gas tax dollars. While this change would benefit gas-guzzling states such as Texas, it would harm states like New York, which effectively use mass transit like the Long Island Railroad.

“Changing the funding formula punishes states like New York for our success in promoting mass transit,” Bishop said. “This will not only starve funding for mass transit programs that work, but it will promote projects that lead to more cars on the road and harm our environment.”

The FAIR Alliance (Fair Alliance for Intermodal Reinvestment) was formed because 17 states and the District of Columbia may lose out on more than \$1 billion in federal highway funding in the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) if the formula change is enacted. The group is led by Congressmen Sherwood Boehlert (R-New York) and Nick Rahall (D-West Virginia).

The FAIR Alliance seeks to preserve our nation’s vital infrastructure program, which benefits all 50 states by ensuring national security readiness and response, freight transportation, and tourism accessibility.

“Limiting investment in older roads that bear the most traffic and are most in need of improvement will render areas of our country less accessible and will inhibit the seamless flow of people and commerce across our nation,” Bishop said.

Bishop said this issue is a special priority for him, because of his role as Long Island’s only member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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